

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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September 11, 1996

PPL No. 96-021



All County Medi-Cal Administrative Activities/
Targeted Case Management Coordinators and
Advisory Committee Members

WHEELCHAIR VAN TRANSPORTATION

The purpose of this transmittal is to provide all local governmental agencies (LGAs) participating in the Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA) program with the Department of Health Services' policy regarding the use of wheelchair vans to transport Medi-Cal eligibles confined to a wheelchair to Medi-Cal services.

The MAA program allows costs to be claimed for arranging and providing non-emergency, non-medical transportation of Medi-Cal eligibles to medical services or to Targeted Case Management services covered by the Medi-Cal program, and when medically necessary, accompaniment by an attendant. This activity is claimable only if the LGA incurs actual costs, such as taxi vouchers, bus tokens, mileage, costs of vans, drivers, etc. If no actual cost is borne by the LGA the activity cannot be claimed.

Nonemergency, medical transportation means transportation by ambulance, litter van and wheelchair van of the sick, injured, invalid, convalescent, infirm or otherwise incapacitated persons whose medical conditions require medical transportation services but do not require emergency services or equipment during transport. The California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 3, Section 51151.5, defines a wheelchair van as a vehicle which is modified, equipped and used for the purpose of providing nonemergency, medical transportation for wheelchair bound patients and which is not routinely equipped with the medical equipment or personnel required for the specialized care provided in an ambulance.

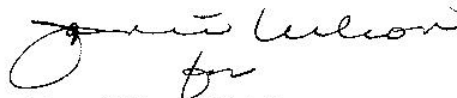
As described above, wheelchair vans are considered nonemergency, medical transportation and are claimable under the Medi-Cal fee-for-service program. In order to receive payment, the Medi-Cal provider must submit a Treatment Authorization Request (TAR) to the Medi-Cal field office. The TAR must be approved prior to providing the nonemergency, medical transportation. Nonemergency, medical transportation reimbursable through the Medi-Cal fee-for-service program is not separately claimable through the MAA program.

In those instances when a non-emergency, non-medical vehicle is unavailable to transport wheelchair bound Medi-Cal eligibles, and a TAR has been submitted for the use of a wheelchair van and the TAR has been denied, the LGA may claim the cost under the MAA program if the transportation costs are borne by the LGA. To claim these transportation costs, LGAs must:

1. Retain records documenting the actual costs borne by the LGA.
2. Retain records indicating that a wheelchair van is the type of transportation that was used to transport Medi-Cal eligibles who require the use of a wheelchair to medical services or to Targeted Case Management services covered by the Medi-Cal program.
3. Retain records documenting why non-emergency, non-medical transportation vehicles were not used.
4. Obtain a copy of the denied TAR from the provider of service, and retain the denied TAR for audit purposes as supporting documentation for the MAA invoice.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the analyst assigned to your LGA.

Sincerely,



Darryl Nixon, Chief
Medi-Cal Benefits Branch

Enclosure

Targeted Case Management:	
Medi-Cal Administrative Activities:	X
Policy Effective Date:	July 1, 1995
Policy Reference:	Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 14132.47

cc: Cathleen Gentry
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cc's continued on next page

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